

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for remotely evaluating a vehicular part, comprising:

obtaining, from a vehicular dealer, description information regarding said vehicular part in an electronic folder;

sending, from a central server, said electronic folder including said description information to an assessment center;

modifying, at a terminal at said assessment center, the electronic folder to include ~~an assessment, said assessment being based on said description information and comprising~~ a grade for the vehicular part, the electronic folder once modified corresponding to an updated electronic folder;

receiving, from said assessment center, the updated electronic folder;

sending said updated electronic folder from said central server to said vehicular dealer;

~~displaying said assessment of said updated electronic folder, with said grade,~~ at said vehicular dealer; and

at said vehicular dealer, determining a disposition of said vehicular part based on said grade of said assessment; and automatically transmitting to an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) a notification of the disposition; and

at a remanufacturer, sorting the vehicular part according to the grade

~~wherein said modifying the electronic folder to include said modifying the electronic folder to include the assessment is performed prior to the determining the disposition at the vehicular dealer.~~

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising at least one of the steps of mining data and generating reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said data and

reports are in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

6. (Previously amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said disposition of said vehicular part comprises at least one of a discarding the vehicular part and determining a warranty settlement for said vehicular part based on said assessment.

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising at least one of the steps of mining data and generating reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said data and reports are in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of sending said vehicular part to a third party for at least one of repair and recycling.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising at least one of identifying and ordering missing materials required for a remanufacturing of said vehicular part based on said assessment.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising automatically ordering said materials required for remanufacturing of said vehicular part.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said vehicular dealer comprises an authorized representative of an original equipment manufacturer.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said assessment center comprises at least one of an independent assessing center, an original equipment manufacturer, and a warranty processing center.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing access to a party at a third location to said assessment.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said party at said third location accesses said assessment through an Internet web browser.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said party at said third location comprises an original equipment manufacturer.

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising producing data and reports for a plurality of vehicular parts and their assessment.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising providing said data and reports in such a format as to be compatible with internal data management systems of a party receiving said data and reports.

21. to 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A data center used in a remote evaluation of a vehicular part, said data center comprising:

a computer server adapted to communicate with a vehicular dealer and an assessment center, said computer server comprising:

input means for receiving, from said vehicular dealer, said electronic folder including said description information regarding said vehicular part;

output means for sending said description information to said assessment center;

said input means for receiving, from a terminal of said assessment center, ~~an assessment based on said description information, said assessment comprising a grade for the vehicular part, said electronic folder having been modified at said terminal of said assessment center to include said grade of said assessment, prior to a disposition being determined for the vehicular part;~~ and

said output means for sending said electronic folder, once modified to include said grade, to the vehicular dealer, where the grade will be used to determine the disposition of the vehicular part and, also sending the electronic folder at a remanufacturer where the grade will be used for sorting the vehicular part.

29. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a server database for storing at least a portion of said description information in said electronic folder.

32. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said computer server is further adapted to communicate with a third location and said output means further sends said assessment to said third location.

33. (Previously amended) The data center as claimed in claim 28, wherein said computer server is adapted to determine the disposition based on said grade, and wherein the output means outputs the disposition, the disposition comprising at least one of a discarding of the vehicle part and a warranty settlement for said vehicular.

34. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 33, wherein said description information comprises at least one of textual data, numerical data, binary data, scanned documents, digital images, digital audio and video of said vehicular part.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 29, further comprising a server database for storing at least a portion of said description information in said electronic folder.

37. (Previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 33, wherein said computer server is further adapted to communicate with a third location and said output means further sends said assessment to said third location.

38. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising selecting an assessment center based on the description information.

39. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising printing a shipping label based on a destination identified in the determining of a disposition.

40. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising adding an event-driven status indicator to the electronic folder for tracking the progress of a claim concerning the vehicular part.

41. (Currently amended) A method for remotely evaluating a vehicular part, comprising:

inputting, at a vehicular dealer, description information regarding the vehicular part in an electronic folder;

sending the electronic folder including the description information to an assessment center;

receiving the electronic folder at the assessment center;

at a terminal at the assessment center modifying the electronic folder to include an assessment based on said description information, the assessment comprising a grade for the vehicular part;

receiving the electronic folder at the vehicular dealer;

displaying said assessment at the vehicular dealer, with said grade; and disposing of the vehicular part based on the grade for the vehicular part, and automatically transmitting to an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) a notification of the disposition;

wherein said modifying the electronic folder is performed prior to the disposition of the vehicular part.

42. (previously presented) The data center as claimed in claim 28, further comprising validating means for validating contents of said assessment based on a set of pre-defined rules.